

S/N 10/553088

PATENTREMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-13 and 15-25 are pending. Claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The rejection of claims 1-13, 15, 17, 18, 22 and 25 over Otomo (JP 2003-213122), the rejection of claims 19, 21, 23, and 24 over Otomo in view of Taguchi, and the rejection of claim 20 over Otomo in view of Masuda are rendered moot by the insertion of the features of claim 14 into claim 1. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejections.

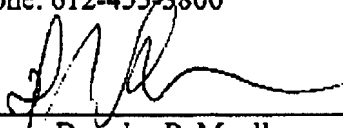
Claims 14 and 16 were rejected as unpatentable over Otomo in view of Ohtomo (WO2004/72158). Ohtomo has an effective prior art date of August 26, 2004. The present application has a priority date of January 7, 2004. A verified translation of the priority application is filed herewith. Therefore, Ohtomo does not qualify as prior art and the rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection. Applicants also note that Masuda has an effective prior art date subsequent to the priority date of the present application.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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